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RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0390
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UNCLAS TOKYO 000529

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/IPA ANDREW LENTZ

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPANESE PLEDGE USD 200 MILLION AT MARCH 2 SHARM
AL-SHEIKH DONORS CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 20388
[1](#)B. TOKYO 450

[1](#)1. Ref A indicates that Japan's contribution at the March 2 Sharm al-Sheikh donors conference for Gaza is "unknown." In public remarks made at the conference, Japan's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Shintaro Ito stated as follows: "The reconstruction of Gaza must serve as a cornerstone for the establishment of a Palestinian state comprised of the West Bank and Gaza. To this end, Japan will provide \$200 million in assistance to the Palestinians in the coming years, which includes the unimplemented part of the pledge in Paris and some suspended projects. And swiftly, we will implement humanitarian assistance at a scale of 60 million U.S. dollars which is part of the 200 million U.S. dollars I have just announced." The fact that Japan would pledge USD 20 million was also reported in Ref B.

[1](#)2. According to MOFA First Middle East Division Palestine desk officer Mamoru Kanno, the \$60 million assistance for the Gaza Strip mentioned above will be comprised of humanitarian assistance projects which meet emergency relief and early recovery needs. The rest of the pledge is still under consideration in terms of precise usage. Assistance to the Gaza Strip will be implemented mainly through UN organizations such as the UNDP and UNRWA. Assistance to the West Bank will be implemented either by UN organizations or directly by the Palestinian Authority. No legislative action is necessary prior to the disbursement of these funds.

[1](#)3. Japan has already disbursed about USD 11 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including in-kind assistance, since December 27, 2008. This assistance is comprised of the following:

- \$3 million: emergency food aid distributed through UNRWA;
 - \$4 million: emergency food aid distributed through the WFP;
 - \$3 million: emergency assistance to severely affected children and women distributed through UNICEF;
 - \$1 million: assistance in kind (29,000 blankets, 8,000 plastic sheets, 20,000 sleeping mats) distributed through UNRWA;
 - \$75,000 blood cell separator delivered to Shifa Hospital.
- ZUMWALT